IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 3 without prejudice and amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of maintaining a database for managing ~~the~~ a process of a plurality of transactions through two or more applications in a business transaction environment, each application having at least one associated log file, and each transaction being defined by one or more steps configured to complete the transaction, ~~for each new log entry recorded in the at least one associated log file,~~ the method comprising:

accessing each of the respective associated log files, wherein at least two of the associated log files are of different formats;

for each new log entry recorded in the respective associated log file being accessed:

(i) determining whether the new log entry comprises one of more required fields using mapping rules that describe a location and format of at least the one or more required fields in the respective associated log file;

(ii) extracting information from the new log entry only if the new log entry comprises the one of more required fields; and

(iii) storing the information as a plurality of transaction records to a database.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving a notification message from the ~~at least one~~ respective associated log file indicating that the new log entry has been recorded in the ~~at least one~~ respective associated log file.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the information is extracted from the new log entry using ~~a set of~~ the mapping rules providing the format and the location of the information in the new log entry.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising determining whether the plurality of transaction records meets an undesirable condition; and executing an action responsive to the undesirable condition if the plurality of transactions meets the condition.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the condition is whether a number of the plurality of transaction records indicative of active transactions exceeds a predefined numerical limit.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the condition is whether any of the plurality of transaction records indicative of active transactions has a time duration exceeding a predefined time limit.

8. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein executing the action comprises sending a notification message alerting the condition.

9. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the action comprises executing a computer program for resolving the condition.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more required fields comprises at least one of a transaction identifier, a step identifier, and a time stamp.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein step identifier is a unique identifier associated with a step of the transaction.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the time stamp indicates a time at which the step started.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the information comprises at least one of a transaction type, a transaction origin, and a transaction

destination[[;]], the transaction type, the transaction origin and the transaction destination identifying the transaction record.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the transaction type describes the type of transaction.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the transaction origin describes an entity that originated the transaction.

16. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the transaction destination describes a final destination of the transaction.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein storing the information comprises storing the information to the database as one of a transaction record and a step record, the transaction record being defined by one or more step records.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the information comprises at least one of a step type and a step location, the step type and the step location identifying the step record.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the step type describes the operation performed by one of the two or more applications at the time the new log entry is recorded.

20. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the step location describes a computer of at least one of the two or more applications.

21. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium containing a program which, when executed by a processor, performs an operation of maintaining a database for managing ~~the~~ a process of a plurality of transactions through two or more applications in a business transaction environment, each application having at least one

associated log file, each transaction being defined by one or more steps configured to complete the transaction, ~~for each new log entry recorded in the at least one associated log file,~~ the operation comprising:

accessing each of the respective associated log files, wherein at least two of the associated log files are of different formats;

for each new log entry recorded in the respective associated log file being accessed:

(i) determining whether the new log entry comprises one of more required fields using mapping rules that describe a location and format of at least the one or more required fields in the respective associated log file;

(ii) extracting information from the new log entry only if the new log entry comprises the one of more required fields; and

(iii) storing the information as a plurality of transaction records to the database.

22. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 21, further comprising: determining whether the plurality of transaction records meets a condition; and executing an action if the plurality of transactions meets the condition.

23. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the one or more required fields comprises at least one of a transaction identifier, a step identifier, and a time stamp.

24. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 21, wherein ~~creating~~ storing the information as ~~database comprising~~ a plurality of transaction records ~~from the information~~ comprises storing the information to the database as one of a transaction record and a step record, the transaction record being defined by one or more step records.

25. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the information is extracted from the new log entry using the set of mapping rules providing the format and the location of the information in the new log entry.

26. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein the condition is whether a number of the plurality of transaction records indicative of active transactions exceeds a predefined limit.

27. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein the condition is whether any of the plurality of transaction records indicative of active transactions has a time duration exceeding a predefined time limit

28. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein executing the action comprises sending a notification message alerting the condition.

29. (Currently Amended) A computer, comprising:

a database maintenance program for managing ~~the~~ a process of a plurality of transactions through two or more applications in a business transaction environment, each application having at least one associated log file, wherein at least two of the associated files are of different format and wherein each transaction ~~being~~ is defined by one or more steps configured to complete the transaction; and

for each new log entry recorded in the ~~at least one~~ associated log files, the transaction management program, when executed, performs an operation comprising:

determining whether the new log entry comprises one of more required fields using mapping rules that describe a location and format of at least the one or more required fields in the respective associated log file;

extracting information from the new log entry only if the new log entry comprises the one of more required fields; and

storing the information as a plurality of transaction records to the database.

30. (Original) The computer of claim 29, further comprising:

determining whether the plurality of transaction records meets a condition; and

executing an action if the plurality of transactions meets the condition.